



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Attorney Docket No: 37697-0033

Applicant(s): Edward W. MERRILL *et al.* Confirmation No.: 8881
Serial No.: 09/764,445 Examiner: Duc Troung
Filing Date: January 19, 2001 Group Art Unit: 1711
Title: RADIATION AND MELT TREATED ULTRA HIGH MOLECULAR
WEIGHT POLYETHYLENE PROSTHETIC DEVICES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

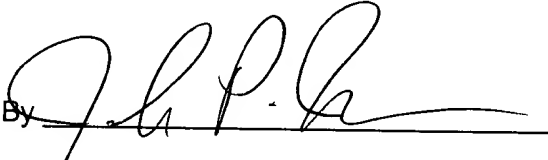
Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2003 (Paper No. 9), applicants hereby elect with traverse Group I, claims 124-30, for prosecution in the subject application. Applicants traverse on the grounds that the examiner has not established patentable distinctiveness between the claims of Groups I and II. Applicants await action on the Request for Interference filed on December 30, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 27, 2003

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